

### REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 4, 2003 pursuant to which claims 1, 6 and 7 - 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) and (b) and claims 2 - 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

Per this amendment the title of the invention has been modified to more aptly describe applicant's invention; claim 1 has been amended to more succinctly define applicant's invention; claims 2 and 4 have been canceled, the sum and substance of these claims now being recited in amended claim 1; claims 3 and 5 have been modified to change their dependency from a canceled claim to claim 1; and, new claim 11 has been added to recite the sum and substance of the deleted portions of claim 1. The claims remaining in this case are claims 1, 3 and 5 - 11. Since two dependent claims have been canceled and only one new dependent claim has been added, it is believed that no additional claim fees are required.

In support of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 6 - 10 US Patent 4,929,460 to Lagarde, et.al. has been relied upon.

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is not tenable and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The Lagarde, et.al. patent discloses *extruding* an elastomer silicone binding material to obtain threads or fibers that can be in the form of strips or ribbons which can be knitted into nets and which are used to tie food stuffs; e.g., meats, together (Col. 2, ll. 20, 21 32 - 42 ). The organosiloxanes used in the extrusion process are highly elastic and heat vulcanizable (Col. 3, ll. 38 - 44).

The mould of applicant's process is obtained by compression molding, injection molding or kneading with hot air curing, not *extrusion*. Applicant's claimed product is a mould, not threads or fibers regardless of the fact that such threads or fibers can be knitted or woven into nets. Applicant's claimed mould is used to place a food product into it, not tie a food product together for cooking. There is no suggestion, much less disclosure, in the Lagarde, et.al. patent of removing the peroxide cross-linking odor by rinsing the mould in boiling water followed by exposing it to ultrasonic treatment.

US Patent 6,197,359 B1 to Llorente Hompenera has been relied upon to support the 35 USC 102(a) rejection of claims 1, 6 and 7.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The Llorente Hompenera patent discloses using a methyl-vinyl-polysiloxane to produce baking and confectionery molds (Col. 2, ll. 20 - 24 and 65 - 67). The methyl-vinyl-polysiloxane mold is obtained by a cross-linking process using platinum as a cross-linking agent (Col. 3, ll. 34 - 50). Platinum is the cross-linking agent of choice as it does not produce toxic peroxide residues or odors (Col. 4, ll. 3 - 6). The polymerization process includes molding the ethyl-vinyl-polysiloxane in the presence of the platinum cross-linking agent at an elevated temperature to obtain a mold; post-curing the mold in a hot air oven or forced circulation oven; and placing the post-cured product in an industrial washer/dryer (Col. 4, ll. 11 - 21).

The use of platinum as a cross-linking agent in the Llorente Hompenera process instead of a peroxide is submitted to be a teaching directly away from applicant's claimed process. Furthermore, applicant's claimed process includes rinsing the molded product obtained in boiling water, not in an industrial washer/dryer. In addition, there is no suggestion, much less disclosure, in the Llorente Hompenera patent of exposing the product to ultrasonic treatment.

The Lagarde, et.al. patent, *supra*, has been combined with US Patent 2,834,753 to Hammesfahr to support the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 3.

This rejection is also respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

It should first be noted that claim 2 has been canceled.

The patent to Hammesfahr discloses a process for removing polymerizing agents from organopolysiloxanes that are obtained by polymerizing low molecular weight organopolysiloxanes to high molecular weight convertible organopolysiloxanes. Removal of the polymerizing agents is accomplished during polymerization by simultaneously intimately dispersing water throughout the convertible organopolysiloxane and then removing the water containing the polymerization agent. (Col. 1, ll. 17 - 28). Peroxide is disclosed as a polymerization agent that can be used (Col. 1, ll. 40 and 41).

It is submitted to be important to note that the Hammesfahr patent has nothing whatsoever to do with producing a silicone baking mould. The Hammesfahr process results in *entirely removing* the polymerization agent. There is no suggestion, much less disclosure, in the Hammesfahr patent of using boiling water to remove the peroxide *odor* from a silicone mould as set forth in applicant's claimed invention.

The patents to Lagarde, et.al., *supra*, and Llorente Hompenera, *supra*, have been combined with US Patent 6,063,894 to Phipps, et.al. to support the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 5.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Again, it is submitted to be important to note that claim 4 has been canceled.

The patent to Phipps, et.al. discloses a process for removing impurities from unoriented polymers by contacting them with a cavitable liquid in the presence of ultrasonic energy (Col. 2, ll. 7 - 24).

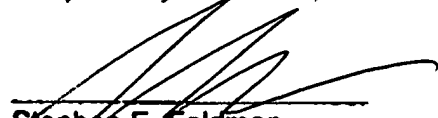
The siloxane used in applicant's claimed process; i.e. dimethyl-vinyl-polysiloxane, is an oriented polymer, not an unoriented polymer and the mould obtained is subjected to ultrasonic treatment to clean the mould, not remove impurities. In addition, applicant's claimed process does not include the use of a cavitable liquid during the ultrasonic treatment as is *required* in the Phipps, et.al. process.. There is no suggestion, much less disclosure, in the Phipps, et.al. patent of producing silicone baking moulds.

In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing remarks it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited and applied references, whether considered singly or in combination, anticipate and/or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration of this case and passing the claims herein to an early issue are, therefor, respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

A check for \$475.00 is enclosed for a three month extension

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